

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 034230

TOSEC 251

FOLLOWING REPEAT NICOSIA 0624 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ANKARA

ATHENS LONDON USUN NATO USCINCEUR DIA WASHDC

USDOCOSOUTH 13 FEBRUARY.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 0624

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CY TU US GR

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH GOC FONMIN CHRISTOPHIDES

REF: NICOSIA 0623

1. SUMMARY: GOC FINDS TURK CYPRIOT UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF
FEDERAL STATE UNACCEPTABLE AND WILL TAKE CYPRUS ISSUE TO UN
SECURITY COUNCIL. GOC SEEKS EMERGENCY SESSION OF COUNCIL FOR
FEBRUARY 17. DENKTASH PROPOSAL DESCRIBED AS "VERY HARD" AND NOT
BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS. INUTILITY OF INTERNATIONALIZATION RECOG-
NIZED BY GOC BUT IN VIEW OF TIGHTENING TURK GRIP ON NORTH, NO
OTHER AVENUE SEEN POSSIBLE. GOC ASKS USG SUPPORT IN UNSC AND
REQUESTS DEMARCHE TO REVERSE GOT DECISION ON DECLARATION OF
TURKISH FEDERAL STATE. WE SAID THIS HIGHLY UNLIKELY AND
COUNSELED CONTINUED RELIANCE ON LOCAL NEGOTIATION. END SUMMARY.
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2. FONMIN CHRISTOPHIDES CALLED ME TO FONOFF AT 2200 HOURS LOCAL FEB 13 TO DELIVER REACTION OF GOC TO TURKISH CYPRIOT ANNOUNCEMENT OF CREATION OF TURK CYPRIOT FEDERAL STATE. CHRISTOPHIDES SAID THAT ONLY USG AND SOVIETS, "AS GREAT POWERS", WERE RECEIVING BRIEFING ON REACTION TONIGHT BUT THAT OTHERS MIGHT BE BRIEFED TOMORROW. HE BEGAN BY OUTLINING GOC'S STRONG OBJECTIONS TO TURKISH CYPRIOT DECLARATION. IT UNDERMINED VERY FOUNDATIONS OF REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS CONSTITUTION. IT CONTRAVENED UN RESOLUTIONS ON CYPRUS WITH REGARD TO TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE. IT FORCED GREEK CYPRIOTS TO ACCEPT TERMS OF TURK SIDE OR TO ACCEPT CONSEQUENCES, WHICH COULD MEAN UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND IN EFFECT AN END TO REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS. DECLARATION THREATENED TO RUIN INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS NOW IN PROGRESS. FINALLY, IT DEMONSTRATED AGAIN BAD FAITH OF TURKS BY CREATING YET ANOTHER FAIT ACCOMPLI. IN SHORT, TURK CYPRIOT DECLARATION TODAY COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE TO GOC AND LEFT GREEK CYPRIOTS WITH NO RECOURSE BUT IMMEDIATE COUNTERACTION.

3. CHRISTOPHIDES INFORMED ME THAT GOC HAD DECIDED TO TAKE CASE TO UN SECURITY COUNCIL. HE, GLAFCOS CLERIDES AND TASSOS PAPA-DOPOULOS LEAVE FEB 14 FOR NEW YORK; CYPRUS REQUESTING EMERGENCY MEETING OF SC FOR FEB 17. CHRISTOPHIDES STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS FORMALLY ASKING FOR USG SUPPORT IN THIS ENDEAVOUR. FURTHER, GOC WAS REQUESTING USG TO MAKE DEMARCHE WITH ANKARA IN EFFORT TO REVERSE TODAY'S DECLARATION. TO DO SO, HE REALIZED, WAS NOT EASY BUT GOC FELT THAT THIS WAS ONLY WAY TO SAVE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. GOC HAD INFORMATION, ADMITTEDLY OF UNKNOWN RELIABILITY, THAT DENKTASH HAD ALREADY DECLARED THAT ANY EFFORT ON PART OF GOC TO INTERNATIONALIZE DISCUSSION OF CYPRUS PROBLEM WOULD RESULT IN "FURTHER STEPS", WHICH GOC COULD ONLY CONSTRUE AS FURTHER MOVEMENT TOWARDS PARTITION. GOC WAS REQUESTING USG TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION VIS A VIS GOT TO ENSURE THAT THIS WOULD NOT OCCUR.

4. CHRISTOPHIDES ASKED WHAT THE POSITION OF USG WAS WITH REGARD TO TODAY'S DECLARATION. IN BRIEF, I REPLIED THAT ALTHOUGH FULL EXTENT OF OUR OFFICIAL POSITION NOT YET KNOWN TO ME, SINCE IMPORT OF DECLARATION STILL BEING STUDIED, I COULD SAY WITHOUT HESITATION THAT USG CONTINUED TO BELIEVE CLERIDES-DENKTASH TALKS BEST FORUM FOR NEGOTIATION BETWEEN TWO COMMUNITIES; THAT WE WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORTED UN RESOLUTIONS WITH REGARD TO SOVEREIGNTY, TERRITORIAL

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INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF CYPRUS; THAT WE WOULD NOT LEND SUPPORT TO ANY DEVELOPMENT WHICH RAN COUNTER TO UN RESOLUTIONS; THAT WE WOULD TAKE LEAD IN BACKING ANY SOLUTION ARRIVED AT BY TWO PARTIES WHICH PRESERVED ISLAND AS ENTITY. I POINTED OUT THAT WE WERE NOT PARTIAL TO INTERESTS OF EITHER PARTY AGAINST OTHER BUT SOUGHT ONLY A SOLUTION SUITABLE TO BOTH. EVENTS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT, HOWEVER, WOULD CLEARLY AFFECT OUR ABILITY TO BE OF HELP IN FINDING THIS SOLUTION; BY THIS I MEANT, FOR

EXAMPGE, ANY DEMANDS FOR RECOGNITION BY TURK CYPRIOTS OR, POSSIBLY OF EQUAL HARM, AN INTERNATIONALIZATION WHICH WOULD DRASTICALLY REDUCE OUR INFLUENCE.

5. I REPEATED ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF CLERIDES-DENKTASH INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS AND POINTED OUT ONCE AGAIN PITFALLS OF INTERNATIONALIZATION, INCLUDING EXTENDED DISCUSSION AT UN. WORLD OPINION SAW INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS AS LIVE NEGOTIATING FORUM, AS ACTIVE UMBRELLA UNDER WHICH PROGRESS TOWARDS SOLUTION COULD BE ACHIEVED. NON-ALIGNED POWERS SUCH AS YUGOSLAVIA AND EGYPT TO MY KNOWLEDGE SUPPORTED THESE TALKS AS BEST CHANCE FOR SOLUTION. WORLD OPINION WOULD ADVISE CYPRIOTS TO GET BACK TO CLERIDES-DENKTASH CONFERENCE TABLE; THERE WOULD BE LITTLE INTEREST IN AND EVENTUALLY VERY LITTLE SUPPORT FOR PURSUING SOLUTION VIA INTERNATIONALIZATION. IN THE END THERE WOULD BE MUCH RHETORIC -- AND WHAT PURPOSE WOULD BE SERVED FOR GOC'S AIMS? HOWEVER, THE CHOICE OF NEGOTIATING FORUM WAS UP TO THE PARTIES. USG WOULD DO WHAT IT COULD TO SUPPORT IN ANY CONTEXT.

6. CHRISTOPHIDES REPLIED THAT ARGUMENT AGAINST INTERNATIONALIZATION WAS WELL KNOWN TO GOC BUT, UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, NO OTHER CHOICE EXISTED. TURK CYPRIOTS, IN HIS WORDS, WERE NOT ONLY CONSOLIDATING BUT FREEZING" THEIR GRIP ON NORTH. AND AS ESENBEL HAD SAID RECENTLY, TURKS WERE NOT INTERESTED IN WHAT WENT ON IN TALKS, THEY WERE INTERESTED ONLY IN WHAT WENT ON IN NORTHERN REGION. DECISION TO GO TO UN, THEREFORE, WAS CERTAIN.

7. CHRISTOPHIDES THEN HANDED ME COPY OF TURK CYPRIOT PROPOSAL PRESENTED TO GOC TODAY, AND WE DISCUSSED ITS MERITS AS WELL AS THOSE OF EARLIER GREEK CYPRIOT PROPOSAL OF PRINCIPLES. HE DESCRIBED DENKTASH PAPER AS "VERY HARD" AND IMPOSSIBLE AS BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION. (TURK PROPOSAL TRANSMITTED SEPTEL). I CONCLUDED WITH STATEMENT THAT TWO PAPERS, WHEN PLACED SIDE BY SIDE ON

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CONFERENCE TABLE, SEEMED TO CONTAIN GENUINE BASIS FOR PROGRESS THROUGH NEGOTIATION AND THAT THEY SHOULD NOT BE DISMISSED IN FAVOR OF A STERILE EXERCISE IN INTERNATIONALIZATION.

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